Dear both, 1/26/92

I was not only surprised, I was baffled when I first saw Johnny yesterday! He intended the surprise and he then saw I was indeed baffled!

I had expected the coming of John Barbour, former Emmy-winning NBC-TV producer. He is preparing a JFK assassination documentary. But he had told me that his son would be helping him. So, when I saw the atrange car I signalled to the people to come in. I told Lil there were here, then went to the door to greet them. Johnny was first. He looked familiar but not familiar. I thought not Johnny, who is not nearly this large. He even looked taller. I never thought that from California Barbour would have Johnny as his sound man, so remarkable a coincidence. So, while face to face I was trying to figure out why the man I thought was Barbour's son looked so familiar, so much like yet not like Johnny, he asked, "won't you give your nephew a greeting?" I was then both embarrassed and as pleased as I was surprised, particularly because he looks so much better than I remember him looking since manhood.

I soon perceived why he is so popular as a sound man. He was extraordinarily careful. He detected what might have impinged on the sound track when nobody else even imagined it. And I'm sure he was correct. He heard what none of the other three of us did and made the corrections. And he pitched in an helped the photographer with her work.

I am always uneasy about these things because experience tells me that despite their assurances the producers do not keep their word, a condition of my appearance: that there will be no conspiracy theorising. So, Johhnny's pleasing presence made me less concerned about that because we were pleased and because he looks so much better than I can remember.

We worked longer than they had planned, with an intermission on which I inisisted for lunch because I then had been up for almost 12 hours and needed it. Our friends at the oriental restaurant were their usual wonderful selves, sending out dishes we had not ordered. And they raved about all, including Barbour, who has in his career been at the very best of restaurants. Johnny declined to take any of it home but the photographer was as loaded as we were. This included what she and we shared, an extra double-sized order of a fine Korean dish, mostly vegetable, Chop Chae. Remembering what he had enjoyed when we were all there together, Johnny asked for that. Everett suggested a variation of it and Johhny enjoyed and ate all of that. Plus samples of the other dishes. There was no confusion this time because I ordered for all except Lil. For her Everett suggested and we all enjoyed a Korean beef preparation new to us. So, that everyone enjoyed everything added to my enjoyment.

Johnny also brought us some excellent picture of his wonderful little boy. And he admired the best picture of Lil and me ever taken that I remember. It was taken by the photographer for the local magazine. (The copies that were to have been sent you, Alma and Sammy and some friends should reach you by the time you get this.) The editor who

wrote the story, in which they did not use it, liked the picture so much she had it framed and brought it to us. We are getting copies for you and Alma and Sammy and will for others for whom we have not ordered copies if we know they want them.

So, although it tired me, it was good and pleasant. I was anxious for them to leave because they had to drive Barbour to Dulles airport, which involved use of roads strange to them, then the photographed had to drive Johnny home or to his car and then she had to go to her home near Annapolis, and snow was predicted. It began to fall not long after they left, I knew it was coming from the direction in which they had to drive, so without telling them I was anxious for them to get started before the first snow had a chance to freeze, as it did promptly here.

Nicole had wanted us to wait a short while after lunch because she was making a soup for us to take home! There was no time for that so we said we'd return for it. And did in the snow. So, snowed in as we now are, we have an ample supply of food that Lil will only have to microwave to serve.

These two wonderful Oriental friends regard and treat Lil and me as family elders. Before he let us leave Everett insisted on going out and sweeping the snow and they salting it. He then held Lil's arm in taking her to the car. He had already put what felt to me like close to a gallon of soup in it! For which and for the forespeis of Korean delicacies, all we could eat for supper, they refused to let us pay.

It was good that we wasted no time because on the way home, on a decline, the bus ahead of us skidded a bit. This alerted me and we had no trouble. Johnny et al also should have had no trouble because they were to use well-travelled roads where traffic would have prevented freezing for more time than completing their driving took.

Barbour had asked Johnny if he did not want to let us know that he would be part of the crew. Johnny said he wanted to surprise us. He did! By his presence and by how good he looks. I take it that all the weight he has put on without looking at all fat indicates that his health is better, fine.

At first we regretted that he had not brought Alexei but soon it was apparent that he was wise not to have. The taping lasted too long - they were here about six hours - and there was too much to do, too much moving around upstairs and down, and it would have taxed even so well-behaved a little boy.

It was also a pleasure to see for the first time how proficient and careful Johnny is in his profession. My prior experience is with many soundmen, including of the networks. Johnny was more of a participant in the operation than any I recall as he sought perfection.

Our best to you all,

Harold